

I. AMENDMENTS

A. In the Claims

Upon entry of the present amendment, the status of the claims will be as follows:

1. (Previously presented) A method of deconjugating in proximity to a metal ion a modifier protein from a target protein, wherein the modifier protein is conjugated to the target protein via a peptide bond between the carboxy terminus of the modifier protein and a free amino group of the target protein, the method comprising contacting the peptide bond with a polypeptide comprising a metalloprotease characterized as a JAB subunit, thereby deconjugating the modifier protein from the target protein.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the target protein is a cullin protein.
3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the target protein is Cul1, Cul2, Cul3, Cul4A, Cul4B, or Cul5.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the target protein has ubiquitin ligase activity.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the target protein is part of a protein complex having ubiquitin ligase activity.
6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the modifier protein is NEDD8, UBL1, SMT3H2, SMT3H1, APG12, FAT10, Fau, UCRP, URM1, or UBL5.

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7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the polypeptide is a polypeptide complex of COP9/signalosome.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the polypeptide is AMSH, AMSH1, or AMSH2.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the target protein is exposed to the polypeptide in vitro.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the target protein is exposed to the polypeptide in vivo.

Claims 11-47 (Cancelled).